



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



498855

D. C.
MEMORANDUM

10/10/79

DATE: October 10, 1979

TO: Division File

FROM: Monte Nienkerk

SUBJECT: PEORIA COUNTY/LPC -- #14380801 -- PEORIA/JANSON

This author visited the Janson Landfill in Peoria on October 10, 1979. I arrived at the site at 10:30 A.M. Charles Janson and his son, Charles Janson, Jr., were on the site when I arrived. No equipment was running at this time. I did observe that work had started on clearing the central low area of the site. An area approximately twenty-five yards wide by approximately sixty yards long has been cleared of all refuse. The natural earthen material exposed in this area is sand and gravel.

Major hot spots were seen on the east side of the site. Hot spots were also seen on the north, south, and west sides. Mr. Janson insisted that the vapors escaping from these hot spots were simply steam and that this was common at all landfills. I tried to explain that the temperatures inside his landfill were much hotter than would be found at a properly run landfill. I also said that there would not be any steam production at any of the other landfills in the area. He disagreed with this. I suggested that we visit two of the nearby landfills. Mr. Janson agreed to this. Mr. Janson and his son accompanied me on a visit to the Peoria Disposal Landfill site located near Pottstown and the Peoria City-County Landfill site located near Edwards. We arrived at both of these sites unannounced and found their daily operations to be in general compliance with the Solid Waste Rules & Regulations. Upon inspecting these sites, we could find no active steam vents or any past evidence of steam vents at either of these sites.

We returned to the Janson Landfill after lunch. We discussed the Stipulation and Agreement which Mr. Janson had signed earlier that day. The main discussion was concerning the location of the trench which is to be dug through the berm. Surveying the area of the trench location as shown on the map attached to the agreement, it does not appear that it is located at the worst hot spot location. Because of this, it was mutually agreed by Mr. Janson and myself that the trench location should be moved approximately 200 feet to the north-northeast.

While looking for hot spots on the east side of the site, I fell through the cover material revealing a hollowed out area. Temperatures inside this cavern were very high. I could not hold my hand in it for more than a few seconds. While we were standing around the cavern we could hear a crackling noise similar to what one would hear when wood is burning. A hot, charred piece of wood was pulled from this cavern. Within a minute of lying on the surface it burst into flame. Both Mr. Janson and his son stated that there were a number of trees buried at this location and that somebody had set them on fire a few years ago. They thought they had extinguished the fire back then, but both admitted that some of the buried trees may still be burning.

I suggested that they pile dirt over the caved in area to block the smoke from escaping from the site. I cautioned them to be careful of any further cave-ins occurring while working around this area. I further stated that they should place the dirt over the cavern only if they could do it in a safe manner without exposing themselves to any danger.

Before leaving the site, I went over the Stipulation and Agreement with Mr. Janson. He understands that he is to 1) clear the central low area, 2) stockpile soil on both sides of the proposed trench location, and 3) notify us and wait for our approval before starting on the excavation of the trench. I gave Mr. Janson my business card in case he had any questions or needed any assistance and then left the site.

MMN/cp

cc: ✓ Central Region
Land FOS Manager
Enforcement Programs
A. Carr, A.A.G.

Date: October 10, 1979

To: Division File *mmmm*

From: Monte Nienkerk

Subject: Peoria County - Peoria/Janson 14380801

On October 10, 1979, this author visited the Jan landfill. At the site were Mr. Janson and his son. Hot spots were noted on the east side of the site. Because of the location of these hot spots, it was agreed to move the location of the proposed trench through the berm ~ 200 feet to the north. Dirt will now be stockpiled at this new trench location. This was done because the original location of the trench did not appear to be at the worst hot spot location.

cc: Central Region

Ann Carr

Charles Janson C.M.J.

Judge Hunt

C M J Jr.